

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 1, line 25 through page 3, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph as follows:

— Known as a prior art concerning the database hub is a technique described in "Data Joiner", International Business Machines Corporation, Internet document searched on November 11, 2002,  
<~~URL: http://~~ located at the website [www-3.ibm.com/software/data/datajoiner/](http://www-3.ibm.com/software/data/datajoiner/)>  
and known as prior arts concerning the disaster recovery are techniques described in "Building Storage Networks" by Marc Farley, second edition, Osborne/McGraw-Hill Corp., 2001, pp. 118-124 and described in "HiRDB version 6", Hitachi Com. Software Department, Internet document searched on November 11, 2002,  
<~~URL: http://~~ located at the website [www.hitachi.co.jp/Prod/comp/soft/open-e/hirdb/v6/outline/confv6.htm](http://www.hitachi.co.jp/Prod/comp/soft/open-e/hirdb/v6/outline/confv6.htm)>.

When a method based on the aforementioned database replication is used as means for getting a consolidated access to a plurality of databases at remote locations, the ~~LAN~~ or WAN is used for transfer of data, raising a problem that much time is consumed for replication of data. In a method using the database hub, the remotely located database management systems are accessed during execution of inquiries, with the result that the response time is degraded and besides, when a large number of results are brought about, a large amount of data must be transferred through the medium of the LAN or WAN, giving rise to a problem that the search performance is degraded. In addition, the method of disaster recovery using the volume replication function the storage unit has is back-up for a database on the

replication side to recover and disadvantageously, it cannot afford to consolidate a plurality of databases. --